

fired into Israel landing on homes and in schools. An additional 150,000 Israeli citizens and numerous strategic facilities are now within range of these missiles and their ability to reach Israel.

Israel's actions are aimed at securing the release of its soldiers and degrading the abilities of Hamas and Hezbollah to threaten its citizens with ongoing barrages of rockets.

Madam Speaker, that is why I ask the United States to stand at Israel's side as it defends itself.

□ 1030

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH DESERVES FEDERAL FUNDING

(Mr. CLAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to reject the cynical attempt to politicize a critical health care issue that offers hope to millions of Americans, embryonic stem cell research. Last year a bipartisan coalition in this House voted for hope, and we should not abandon that today.

In my State almost 1 million people suffer from chronic diseases like diabetes, cancer, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, and spinal cord injuries, and I will not turn my back on them.

Expanding Federal support for stem cell research is also vital to helping America maintain our leadership in medicine and the life sciences. And for minorities and lower-income Americans who suffer from higher rates of chronic diseases, embryonic stem cell research could unlock the secrets to closing the health care disparities gap.

The American people support this research because they know that someone they love will be helped. We should not sacrifice that hope on the altar of partisan politics.

THE ECONOMY

(Mr. HENSARLING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, thanks to the tax relief passed by Republicans in Congress, our economy continues to roll, creating 5.4 million jobs in just 2 years. And because our taxes have been lowered, Americans are working, saving, and investing even more.

That means Republican progrowth tax policies have actually resulted in higher tax revenues, which in turn means that the budget deficit has now dropped from \$423 billion to \$296 billion.

Madam Speaker, despite the opposition of the Democrats, the deficit is down, after-tax incomes are up, homeownership is at an all-time high, and more Americans are working today than ever before. In my district a

worker in Mesquite is entering the workforce, a family in Jacksonville can better afford to send their daughter to college, a newlywed couple in Dallas can now put a down payment on a home, and a small business owner in Garland can hire three new workers.

The numbers and stories reveal that tax relief is working and making the lives of Americans better. That is why we will continue to fight the Democrat agenda of excessive taxation, mind-numbing and senseless litigation that will only close down small businesses and hurt our jobs.

GOP MISGUIDED PRIORITIES ARE NOT HELPING MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, House Republicans are ignoring the priorities of America's families. Once again they refuse to bring up one single bill that will help working families who are struggling to make ends meet.

This morning I would like to offer my Republican colleagues a challenge: Name for me one bill that you have passed into law this year that has significantly helped middle-class Americans.

The American people want a government that works for them, and right now under this House Republican majority, they are not getting it. Middle-class Americans are struggling. For 5 years their wages have remained stagnant, while everything else, housing and health care, energy costs, food, and college costs, has increased dramatically. If you factor in inflation, hourly wages are only .7 percent higher today than they were in 2001. Weekly wages are about the same.

It is no wonder that a large majority of Americans are concerned about their futures. But House Republicans refuse to listen.

Madam Speaker, America works best when we work together for the common good. It is time for a change in Washington.

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of West Georgia on its centennial anniversary. For the past 100 years, West Georgia has been educating some of our State's brightest minds, and I know the school will continue providing educational excellence for many years to come.

West Georgia's roots are humble. In 1906, it was founded as the Fourth District A&M School, a charter member of the university system of Georgia. In January 1908, the school opened its doors to students, enrolling 52 boarding

pupils and 58 day pupils. Those first students would hardly recognize West Georgia today, home to more than 10,000 pupils and over 100 programs of study.

Yet despite the changes of the past 100 years, one thing has remained the same, and that is the dedication of the staff, faculty, students, and community. I want to congratulate university president Dr. Beheruz Sethna, the city of Carrollton, County of Carroll, and the entire West Georgia community on reaching this historic milestone.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating the University of West Georgia, and here is to another 100 years of educating Georgia's students.

WHILE REPUBLICANS DIVIDE AND DISTRACT, DEMOCRATS ARE UNITED ON NEW DIRECTION FOR AMERICA

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I whipped up my snake oil this morning. Snake oil, that is what every 2 years the Republicans whip out. Snake oil this week in Congress. That is, passing legislation that they know will never come into law.

But Democrats are united in taking America in a new direction.

This week marks the second anniversary of the release of the 9/11 Commission recommendations. House Republicans have refused to institute their recommendations, receiving Ds and Fs from the 9/11 Commission on protecting the homeland.

House Democrats want to make the recommendations into law as soon as possible. We want to secure the 25 million passengers who ride Amtrak each year, our neighborhoods, our ports, and our borders. Democrats want to ensure all Americans have access to good-paying jobs by raising the minimum wage and ending outsourcing. We want to make college more affordable.

This time the American people will not be fooled. No more snake oil.

We want to make college more affordable for middle class families by making some college tuition costs tax deductible, expanding Pell Grants and cutting interest costs on student loans in half.

For too long, House Republicans have ignored the needs of hardworking middle class families. Their attempts to distract and divide won't work. The American people are ready for a change.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 810, STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today is certainly a momentous day. President Bush is about to veto the first bill